

MAPLE GROVE TRANSIT COMMISSION
City of Maple Grove
Meeting of January 26, 2016

MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Coss, Teri Anderson, and Matt Nelson.

Members Absent: Mandy Knudsen

Also Present: Mike Opatz-City of Maple Grove, Matt Liveringhouse-Midwest Paratransit, Kevin Dale-Midwest Paratransit, Jason Bordenave-Metro Transit, David Leonard-Metro Transit, Doyne Parson-Metro Transit, and Birgit Fink-resident.

Call to Order

Transit Commission Chair Terry Coss called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Oath of Office

The Oath of Office was taken by Terry Coss and Teri Anderson as the reappointed Transit Commission members for a term not expire December 31, 2017.

Approve Minutes

Terry Coss called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 24, 2015. The motion was made and seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Interview for Transit Commission Vacancy

Opatz said that the City of Maple Grove is currently accepting applications for a vacancies on the Maple Grove Transit Commission representing Route 782, Route 789 and the Maple Grove Dial-A-ride. Resident Birgit Fink had submitted an application for the Route 789 opening and was interviewed at this meeting. Upon completion of the interview, the Commission voted approval to recommend to the City Council to appoint her to the Transit Commission. The Commission was impressed with her passion and approach to transit.

Discussion of Routes and Statistics

Opatz reviewed the monthly ridership summaries for November and December 2015 plus the daily ridership sheets for December and January 2016. Opatz reviewed the year-end 2015 ridership compared to 2014 and noted that a slight increase was realized. Falling gas prices have had an impact on ridership growth.

The Commissioners had the following reports:

- Teri Anderson – Keeping an eye of the downtown bus shelter for snow and ice clearing, but it has been better this year so far. The driver of the Rt. 781A PM trip #6 needs to stop closer to the curb at 3rd and Hennepin.
- Matt Nelson – No major issues on the Route 785. Trip #11 in the morning is getting full at time. Drivers are doing a great job in downtown Minneapolis despite traffic and weather challenges.
- Mandy Knudsen – absent.
- Terry Coss – Trip # 5 in the morning did not show up at Crosswinds on Monday. Opatz noted that it was a bus engine issue. The announcement of stops and cross streets by drivers has been inconsistent.

Dial-A-Ride Web Portal Reservation System

Staff from Midwest Paratransit Service (MPS) Inc. were in attendance to demonstrate a new web based reservation system for the dial-a-ride service. The City of Maple Grove contracts with MPS to provide the dial-a-ride service. The contract involves all aspects of operations including managing the ride reservations. Presently, all users must call in to make ride reservations. The new system will give riders an option to book the ride on-line and eventually receive notifications about their rides via texts and e-mails. Opatz noted that the City is also researching option for an online web based fare payment system as well.

Route 494 Update and Ribbon Cutting

Opatz discussed the new suburb-to-suburb bus service for the Twin Cities transit service that began on January 19 and includes service to the Maple Grove Transit Station. The service is known as the Route 494. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be on February 4. The Maple Grove event will be at the Transit Station at 3:15 PM. Transit Commission members are invited to attend. Opatz distributed a copy of the Route 494 pocket schedule.

2016 Transit Award Nominations

Opatz reviewed the 2016 Transit Award Nominations received by riders. The Transit Commission discussed the nominations and voted approval as follows:

Commissioners' Award:

- Collen Swann
- Bill Patten, Midwest Paratransit

Distinguished Service Award

- Ivory Dotson
- Chavonne Ellis
- William Grommes
- Merhej Abouhadir

- Stephen Hoekstra
- Dan Herrala
- Michael Kluckas

Letter of Commendations

- Jeff Marlin, Midwest Paratransit (2010)
- Denice Newton (2002 and 2004)
- Margaret Stephens (2007)
- Kirby Brown (2015)
- Bonnie Ripple (1999, 2002, 2008 and 2015)
- Brenda Lutzke (2012, 2014, and 2015)

Adjourn / Next Meeting

- Next Scheduled Regular Meeting: ***March 29, 2016***
- Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.
- Minutes submitted by Mike Opatz, Transit Administrator.